Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School

The Amazing Americas   Year 5/6

Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Biomes	A large geographical area which is home to certain plants and animals, specially adapted to suit the environment.
Climate	The usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.
Latitude and Longitude	Imaginary parallel lines which circle the globe from east to west. Imaginary lines which run north to south across the globe from pole to pole.
Continent	A large landmass made up of many countries
Country	An area that is controlled by its own government.
Equator	An imaginary line around the globe at latitude 0° north dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres.
Weather	Short-term impact on an area caused by sun, rain, wind etc.
Koppen-Geiger Classification System	A classification system to confirm which of 5 main climate zones an area is in.
Fieldwork	A method of investigating inn Geography.
Local area	The area around us, focusing on the area where we live.

A snapshot of our learning this half term:

In our learning for this half-term, we are focusing on The Americas as a case study, to increase our sense of place and our understanding of the Geographical location of America, and the variation of places and biomes which are found within America. We will begin by locating America and the states of America, before we focus in on the Geography of our local area, and how it compares to America, particularly in terms of weather and climate.

What you should already know:

In Year 3 and 4, we spent time looking at and focusing on learning about Spain, as a country case study. We looked at the identification of Spain as a city within Europe, as well as considering how the physical features, human features and the population numbers compare to the United Kingdom. It introduced us to the idea of a wider Geographical scale, beyond our local and immediate area, which is the focus in Key Stage 1.

By the end of the unit, you should be able to:

By the end of this unit, we will have spent time practising how to use an atlas, and be more confident to identify a range of features within a given area. Not only this, we are going to use fieldwork techniques to explore our local area, in order to compare our local area with America.

Climate Systems

The Köppen System is a climate classification system. It is split into five main groups which each consist of a range of climate types: • Temperate - hot dry summers, and cooler wetter winters, Mediterranean e.g. United Kingdom • Continental - long, cold winters and short, hot summers, inland areas e.g parts of Turkey • Polar - long periods of extreme cold, tundra, ice cap e.g. Antarctica • Tropical - hot and humid, wet, rainforest e.g. Brazil • Dry - arid, desert e.g. Saudi Arabia
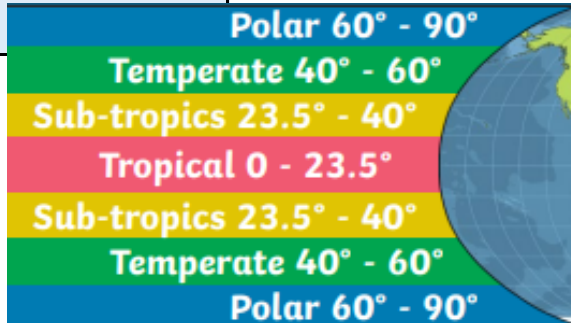
Facts about The Americas:

The Americas are two separate continents consisting of North America and South America. • North America contains 23 different countries. • The Americas cover a huge area of the globe, extending over several lines of latitude and longitude. • The characteristics of different countries and regions vary significantly, including weather, land use and flora and fauna.

What features can we look at to compare Human and Physical Geography?

Physical Geography	Human Geography
The natural features of a place or environment.	Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.
• oceans and coastlines	• country/region boundaries
• rivers and lakes	• buildings, roads and land use
• mountains and volcanoes	• changes to river courses
• flora and fauna	• language/signs
• land-form	• religion, government, art and music

Polar 60° - 90°
Temperate 40° - 60°
Sub-tropics 23.5° - 40°
Tropical 0 - 23.5°
Sub-tropics 23.5° - 40°
Temperate 40° - 60°
Polar 60° - 90°

The New Seven Wonders of the World

| Christ the Redeemer, Brazil | Machu Picchu, Peru | Chichen Itza, Mexico | The Colosseum, Italy | Taj Mahal, India | The Great Wall of China | Petra, Jordan |
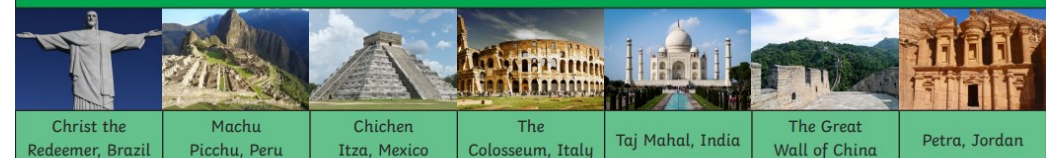
Some of the Natural Wonders of the Americas

| Grand Canyon, Arizona | Niagara Falls, Ontario/New York | Angel Falls, Venezuela | Yosemite Valley, California | Kilauea, Hawaii | Great Blue Hole, Belize | Amazon Rainforest, Brazil |